

May 21, 2008

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE met in regular session on April 28, 2008, and recommends the following motions.

1. Election of Chair. Bernie Erickson elected as Chair.
2. Election of Vice Chair. Mike Fleck elected as Vice Chair.
3. Set date and time for regular meetings. 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month following Land Conservation Sub Committee meeting.
4. Review minutes of:
  - a) Planning Commission Board of Directors (2/6/08).
  - b) Planning Commission Board of Directors Elderly & Disabled Transportation Subcmte (4/8/08).Receive & place on file items a-b.
5. Update and quarterly report on Advance by Barb Fleisner, Vice President, Economic Development of Advance. Receive & place on file.
6. Airport - Budget Status Financial Report for March 31, 2008. Receive & place on file.
7. Airport - Director's report. Receive & place on file.
8. Property Listing - Annual report and summary of current activities. Receive & place on file.
9. Property Listing - Farm Technology Days Update. Receive & place on file.
10. Property Listing - Proposed revision to Chapter 21. (Require Treasurer's certificates on condominiums and certified survey maps. Approve revisions to Chapter 21 and forward to Corporation Counsel.
11. Property Listing - Budget Status Financial Report for February & March, 2008. Receive & place on file.
12. Port & Solid Waste - Renard Island Closure Plan Update. (Referred back to committee from April 15, 2008 County Board.) (Standing item.) Receive & place on file.

13. Port & Solid Waste - Power Purchase Agreement, Wisconsin Public Service and Brown County for Landfill Gas to Energy Project – Request for Approval. (Held from previous meeting.) Approve.
14. Port & Solid Waste - Budget Status Financial Report for March 31, 2008. Receive & place on file.
15. Port & Solid Waste - Director's report. Receive & place on file.
16. Planning Commission - No monthly update of East Side Property. (Standing item.) No action.
17. Planning Commission - Budget Status Financial Report for February & March, 2008. Receive & place on file.
18. Highway - Update of overhead sign on Lombardi & Oneida Streets. (Requested by Supervisor Erickson). Receive & place on file.
19. Communication from Supervisor Norbert Dantinne re: Have Brown County Highway look into more cost effective ways to maintain our deteriorating highway system and evaluate late year's test of chip sealing. (Referred from April 15, 2008 County Board.) Receive & place on file.
20. Highway - Follow-up for request study to be done on drainage on Lineville Road. (Requested by Supervisor Lund and held for 60 days for a report.) Forward to Department of Transportation for future planning options.
21. Highway – Budget to Actual State Billing (March 2008) Receive & place on file.
22. Highway - Commissioner's Report. Receive & place on file.
23. UW- Extension - Budget Status Financial Report for February & March, 2008. Receive & place on file.
24. UW- Extension - Director's report. No action.
25. Zoning – FEMA update. No action.
26. Zoning – Director's report. Receive & place on file.
27. Zoning - Budget Status Financial Report for February & March, 2008. Receive & place on file.

28. Register of Deeds - Budget Status Financial reports for February & March 2008. Receive & place on file.
29. Audit of bills. Audit the bills.
30. Next meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 1008 (changed due to Memorial Day).

Approved by:

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Planning, Development & Transportation Committee** was held on Monday, April 28, 2008 in Room 161 - UW-Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI



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**Present:** Norb Dantinne, Bernie Erickson, Mike Fleck, Dan Haefs, Dave Kaster,  
**Also Present:** Tom Miller, Chuck Larscheid, Brian Lamers, Judy Knudsen  
Jim Wallen, Pat Ford, Bill Bosiacki  
County Executive Tom Hinz, Jayme Sellen, Supervisors Lund & Scray  
Barb Fleisner - Advance

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1. **Call Meeting to Order:**  
Meeting called to order by Senior Member Dan Haefs at 6:20 p.m.
2. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**  
A request was made to move #9, Communication regarding Brown County Highway to 22a.  
  
**Motion made by Supervisor Dantinne and seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve the agenda as amended.**  
**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
3. **Election of Chair:**  
  
**Nomination by Supervisor Dantinne to elect Bernie Erickson as Chairman of the Planning, Development & Transportation Committee. Bernie Erickson elected by unanimous ballot.**
4. **Election of Vice Chair:**  
  
**Nomination by Supervisor Dantinne to elect Mike Fleck as Vice-Chair of the Planning, Development & Transportation Committee. Mike Fleck elected by unanimous ballot.**
5. **Set Date and Time for Regular Meetings:**  
  
**Motion made by Supervisor Dantinne and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to set the date of the Planning, Development & Transportation Committee meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, following the Land Conservation Committee meeting. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
6. **Approve/Modify Minutes of regular meeting of March 24, 2008:**  
  
**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Haefs to approve the minutes. MOTION APPROVED UNAINOUSLY**

7. **Review Minutes of:**
- Planning Commission Board of Directors (2/6/08)**
  - Planning Commission Board of Directors Elderly & Disabled Transportation Subcmte (4/8/08):**

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantinne and seconded by Supervisor Haefs to receive and place on file 7a & b. MOTION APPROVED UNAINOUSLY**

**Presentation/Update:**

8. **Update and Quarterly Report on Advance by Barb Fleisner, Vice President, Economic Development of Advance:**

Barb Fleisner was present from Advance. She distributed the annual report (attached) and highlighted items related to the Business Assistance Center, Incubator Development, Regional Collaboration, and business retention and expansion goals. She also touched on business recruitment goals, in addition to financial management/municipal & organizational enhancement goals. See report for details.

Ms. Fleisner referred to a press release dated April 21, 2008 at which time Advance unveiled business insights on the local economic climate, stating they are optimistic about the economic climate in the area.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantinne and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Airport:**

10. **Budget Status Financial Report for March 31, 2008:**  
Budget is in line even with higher winter snow expenses.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantinne and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. **Director's Report:**  
Tom Miller highlighted activities during the last reporting period:
- Article on merger of Delta/Northwest Airlines attached. He will continue to update as details occur.
  - Reconstruction of a runway began on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Free wireless internet service has been installed.
  - Passenger numbers continue to increase – up 5.5% over this time last year.

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantinne to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Property Listing:**

12. **Annual Report and Summary of Current Activities:**  
Jim Wallen and Pat Ford highlighted their annual report, updating numbers for parcel and real estate activity (see packet material)

**Motion made by Supervisor Haefs and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

13. **Farm Technology Days Update:**

A map describing the layout for Wisconsin Farm Technology Days to be held July 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> was distributed and is attached. There are 250 acres involved for this event. Approximately 1200 volunteers will be needed.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

14. **Proposed Revision to Chapter 21. (Require Treasurer's Certificates on Condominiums and Certified Survey Maps):**

Revisions to various sections of Chapter 21 were reviewed. These revisions will require a Brown County Treasurers certificate on all Certified Survey Maps and Condominium Plats. This will make approval of these documents consistent with the current procedure on all subdivision plats and insure that before all new land divisions are made, unpaid taxes or special assessments are up to date.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to approve revisions to Chapter 21 and forward to Corporation Counsel. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

15. **Budget Status Financial Report for February & March 2008:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Port & Solid Waste:**

16. **Renard Island Closure Plan Update. (Referred back to committee from April 15, 2008 County Board) (standing item):**

Chuck Larscheid reported that a closure plan, including information requested by the DNR last February, was submitted. As the DNR had 90 days to review the plan, a reply is expected by the end of May. There is a Memorandum of Understanding with Green Bay for future use of the island and several suggestions have been made. When comments from Green Bay are compiled, a meeting will be held to discuss them. Representatives from the County on that committee will be Norb Dantine and Dan Haefs.

Supervisor Haefs requested that a copy of the plan be distributed to new County Board members for their review. He explained that although the closure plan has been sent to the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers, it has not been adopted by the County Board, although they have agreed it is an "acceptable plan".

A lengthy discussion resulted in a recommendation that staff bring findings of the DNR and Corp of Engineers back to committee when received. At that time a meeting may be scheduled with Green Bay to discuss options – although it was pointed out this is a County issue.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

17. **Power Purchase Agreement, Wisconsin Public Service and Brown County for Landfill Gas to Energy Project – Request for Approval. (Held from previous meeting:**

Mr. Larscheid explained this Power Purchase Agreement is between WPS and the Brown County Port and Solid Waste Department. He pointed out changes that have been made related to "Delivery Term", "Renewable Energy Purchase Price Adder", and "Standard Rate". At this time he recommends approval.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

18. **Budget Status Financial Report for March 31, 2008:**

An error was pointed out in the highlight box of the financial report – "Total Expenses are \$730,633 OVER budget", should read UNDER BUDGET.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

19. **Director's Report:**

Mr. Larscheid highlighted the following activities during the last reporting period:

- Have been approached by the paper mills with a request to use the Brown County South Landfill for Fox River cleanup. It was felt that an engineer and legal counsel should review the plans to determine any liability. At this time the issue is at a standstill.
- Farm Technology Days – Have been approached to help out with parking and a soil science class on property adjacent to the Gerrits farm and the south landfill.
- Transfer Station – Contract for operation and hauling waste has been extended for one year, adding a provision which would allow the County to bring in a sub-contractor to help haul waste if necessary, along with a provision to implement fines if not hauling waste fast enough.
- Water dripping out trailers has gotten into storm water detention ponds at the transfer station. The pond is being aerated, and a collection drain and holding tank has been installed to collect liquids coming off trucks.
- Landfill Air Permit – Drains have been installed in collection ports for liquids coming out of the landfill as air intrusion into the system can get into the gas collection system. The State air permit for the East Landfill was modified to allow the landfill gas to energy system to be installed. It has been determined that the West Landfill is not economically feasible to proceed, so the Solid Waste Board has been asked to put the site on hold.
- \$80,000 put in the budget to construct a pump maintenance building at the East Landfill has not yet been authorized to be spent. The garage of a home on the property, which was leased and is now vacant, may be used instead.
- Sludge hauled from Fox River Fiber to the Winnebago County Landfill is being used for covering waste. There is a contract for 70,000 tons a year, however, that has raised to 110,000 tons. Waste Management has agreed to take the excess tonnage.
- There have been breakdowns at the MERF, however, an attempt is being made not to do any maintenance as in another year this facility will be obsolete and a new one is planned.

- A drug collection partnership with the City of Green Bay, Streu's Pharmacy, and the BC Sheriff's Department, along with a \$25,000 grant from EPA has resulted in the collection of 1.1 million pills.
- A program to collect fluorescent bulbs is underway with collection boxes placed at various county facilities.

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Planning Commission:**

20. **No monthly update of East Side Property. (Standing item. Chuck Lamine is out of town).**
21. **Budget Status Financial Report for February & March 2008:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Highway:**

22. **Update of Overhead Sign on Lombardi & Oneida Streets. (Requested by Supervisor Erickson):**

Supervisor Erickson reported that he, along with personnel from the Highway Department, have reviewed this intersection and an agreement has been made to re-stripe and install additional signs for easier navigation.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communications:**

- 22a. **Communication from Supervisor Norbert Dantine re: have Brown County Highway look into more cost effective ways to maintain our deteriorating highway system and evaluate last year's test of chip sealing. (Referred from April 15, 2008 County Board):**

Supervisor Dantine asked for consideration of a less expensive way to maintain roads other than chip sealing. Mr. Lamers indicated that the department is now attempting to use crack sealing, having repaired 20 miles of roadway, with another 30 miles planned. Supervisor Lund asked about using "matting" which was done on East Deerfield and has proved successful.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

23. **Follow-up for request study to be done on drainage on Lineville Road. (Requested by Supervisor Lund and held for 60 days for a report):**

Mr. Lamers referred to minutes from a 3/18/08 meeting which consisted of several Brown County Highway Department personnel, along with representatives of the BC Planning Department, the Village of Suamico, and the WI DNR. It was determined that there are two different drainage courses with



regard to the matter brought forward by Supervisor Lund for review. The conclusion was that the DOT needs to be informed of the importance of incorporating drainage improvements at the Lineville Road interchange into the USH 41 reconstruction project.

Supervisor Lund encouraged that drainage improvements be evaluated and addressed at the time the USH 41 corridor study and interchange project is designed, explaining that many roads in the Suamico area have standing water. Mr. Lamers indicated that the DNR has expressed willingness to discuss any issues.

**Motion made by Supervisor Haefs and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to forward to the Department of Transportation for future planning options.  
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**24. Highway – Budget to Actual State Billing (March 2008):**

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**25. Commissioner's Report:**

Mr. Lamers reported that he has requested an update on the Oneida Nation's IRR program.

Construction for the upcoming season is underway. Plans are being made for a roundabout on GV.

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**UW-Extension:**

**26. Budget Status Financial Report for February & March 2008:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**27. Director's Report:**

Ms. Knudson highlighted the following activities during the last reporting period:

- Farm Technology Days – Lot rental is at 92%, booth rental at 85%, with an expectation to be full by the time the show starts. A pre-show event is scheduled for July 14 for supporters of the show and committee members are invited. Construction of tent city and other buildings will begin mid June.
- An invasive species (phragmites) is growing in the wetlands and ditches. Staff is studying how to address the issue.
- Organic orchard was damaged by winter weather meaning there will be less fruit grown this summer. The coop house will be built shortly.
- The office will be busy with calls from homeowners relative to winter kill of various trees
- A handout describing UW-Extension programming efforts, along with a schedule of events for April and May was distributed.

**Zoning:**

**27a. FEMA Update:**

Bill Bosiacki reported that the 90 day comment period will end soon. To date, 115 pieces of information on different sites have been submitted. In addition, there have been 55 comments on the maps submitted, along with 45 questions. An engineer from CDM is expected sometime in May to go over the comments and questions.

**27b. Director's Report:**

Comments from residents living on the Bay regarding wave run up are being addressed. Bosiacki suggests that State Representatives be asked to review the state requirement relative to the 100 year event. Supervisor Haefs agreed to bring this issue forward to the County Board.

A letter was received from Senator Lasee relative to the Eland issue. Bosiacki will follow-up.

**Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Register of Deeds** – Budget Status Financial Reports for February & March 2008. No other items  
**Land Information Office** – No agenda items

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster and seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other:**

**28. Audit of Bills:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to approve audit of bills. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**29. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: None**  
**Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 2008 (changed due to Memorial Day)**

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Rae G. Knippel  
Recording Secretary



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## ***Brown County Planning, Development & Transportation Committee January – April 2008 Benchmark Report April 28, 2008***

### **Business Assistance Center, Advance Incubator Development, Regional Collaboration**

- Approved 2 tenants - Working with 8 incubator prospects – Total current tenants 12 businesses, collectively employing 70
- Host monthly Inventors & Entrepreneurs evening sessions – update on Bayland LLC development; website marketing; International Food Marketing, NWTC Trades & Technical Services
- Attended NEWREP monthly meetings – NewNorth prospect protocol/fundraising; finalized business plan competition – 44 submitted; 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from Brown County; Green List LLC & Stonecroft Galleries
- Hosted BAC booths at WEN Conference at Lambeau Field, Chamber Expo, and Partners for Profit Trade Show
- Hosted monthly BAC Partners meetings – wireless installed in building; Finalized year calendar for new programming – BAC Biz Bites & E-Connection's event; strategy session
- Working with CB Richard Ellis on incubation issues – owner of old incubator building
- Hosted Business After Hours at BAC/Incubator and Open House for Tenant Alumni
- Participated in HBBA Executive Committee meeting to recruit incubator tenants
- Participated in WI International Trade meeting in Madison
- Working with UWGB Graduate students on strategic plan for Incubator
- BAC hosted Elevator Pitch training
- BAC hosted Entrepreneurial Connections event – Start-up/Growth panels, Elevator Pitch Contest
- Press release on Educational Alliance with UWGB, UW Stout, NWTC to offer manufacturing engineering degree in Green Bay
- Working with NWTC in Sustainability Program with local firms with ties to Italy
- Host NewNorth Private Equity/Venture Capital workshop at BAC
- NEW International Business Program hosted 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Network Trades Conference – 320 attending
- Leading Data/Leverage Sub-Committee for NewNorth & NewNorth fundraising committee; NewNorth Small Business Executive Committee meeting
- Mentored 8<sup>th</sup> grader entrepreneurial award winner through SCORE/Partners in Education
- Participated in monthly NEW Manufacturing Alliance meetings
- Attended Brown County Port & Solid Waste Symposium
- Attended Chamber Public Policy meeting with local state representatives
- Instructed Brown County Economic Development Workshop (manual developed)
- Co-hosted Women in the Outdoors event
- Participated in 2 Job Center Advisory meetings

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### **Business Retention/Expansion Goal**

- Completed 36 business retention visits; 120 annual goal.
- 104 SCORE counseling sessions/4 workshops with 48 attending
- Assisted 21 Brown County companies with economic development assistance
- Presented to NWTC Business Development class
- Reviewed/approved 12 SBA loans for WBD
- Participated in the organization development meeting of Military Avenue business alliance/developed logo/mission/created data base and website based e-newsletter
- Co-hosted Converting Influence Conference at Lambeau Field; Board Meetings
- Attended Governor Doyle's presentation on revision to Act 255 at Heartland Label
- Finalized investment in NationJob to assist local companies with recruitment efforts
- Continue planning efforts for Women's Virtual Network
- Groundbreaking for SMET, Chamber, Shopko
- Interview with Dan Griswold, Director of Center for Trade Policy Studies in Washington DC
- Participate in Business Day in Madison
- Participate in WI Manufacturer of the Year Event in Milwaukee: 6 local companies nominated – ENCAP, LLC; MCL Industries, Inc.; North Wood Flooring, LLC; Paper Converting Machine Co.; WS Packaging Group, Inc., Fox Valley Metal Tech
- Green Bay Machinery Division of Schreiber Foods & Sanimax nominated for Governor's Export Achievement Award
- Assisting Seven Generations with development issues
- Attended Shopko formal dedication in Suamico; Anchor Bank in Ashwaubenon; Worldgoods LLC in City of Green Bay; Kim Klein Photography in Ledgeview
- Assisted with Title VIB Grant for international development
- International Business counseling/visit with 13 companies dealing with the following:
  - upcoming shipment to Turkish customer including proposed INCO terms, export documentation & Process, and international freight forwarders
  - international letter of credit and certificate of origin questions for shipments to Korea
  - biodiesel international shipping project
  - strategic planning of expanding business into overseas markets
  - certificate of origin for Egyptian shipment
  - certificate of origin for Kuwait shipment
- Attended Governor Doyle's/Carver Boat Corporation's announcement of \$27 million investment in Pulaski and City of Green Bay, creating 450 new jobs, leveraging \$4.26 million in state grants/loans
- Worked with Dean Haen, Port of Green Bay Manager on upcoming inter-modal port facility study
- Attended WPS Farm Show for bio-ag/bio-energy industry cluster initiative
- Presentations to Green Bay Metropolitan Sewer District and GB Labor Council on Waste Transportation Initiative
- Hosted talent recruitment meeting with local companies and WisCareers



### **Business Recruitment Goal**

- Responded to one manufacturing prospect through NewNorth
- Responded to food processing location request
- Responded to Commerce commercial site request
- Responded to nonwoven manufacturers site request
- Working with one out of the area prospect for manufacturing
- Assisting 13 Brown County residents with getting their businesses started
- Groundbreaking for Aloft Hotel in Ashwaubenon
- Hosted Highway 41 Corridor Site Selector reception in Milwaukee

### **Financial Management/Municipal & Organizational Enhancement Goal**

- Participated in Ashwaubenon Economic Development Committee meetings
- Assisted Village of Allouez with creation of Economic Development Committee
- Participated in Ritter forum to enhance community collaboration
- Attended Transportation Development Association board meeting in Madison
- Participated in 172/GV planning area of Bellevue; Greater Green Bay Image campaign presentation to Village board; Interviewed candidates for position with the Village of Bellevue
- Participated in DePere Main Street Economic Restructuring Committee and Board meeting - creation of resource guide
- Participated in Village of Hobart CDA meetings & Village of Suamico Trustee meeting
- Spearheading municipal involvement with Greater Green Bay Image Campaign
- Spearheading municipal economic development cooperative agreement
- Participated in WEDA Board Meetings
- Participated in joint Olde Main and DGBI Board meeting
- Monthly presentations to Villages of Suamico, Hobart, Allouez, Ashwaubenon
- 4-Month update to Brown County Planning, Development & Transportation Committee
- Attended State of the City address and Wrightstown Annual Business Association meeting
- Attended Women in Government event in Madison

Respectfully submitted,



Barb Fleisner  
Vice President



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Advance Unveils Business Insights on Local Economic Climate**

Green Bay, Wis. (April 21, 2008) – Results from an online business retention software tool used by Advance, the economic development arm of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, indicate that business leaders in Brown County are optimistic about the economic climate in the area.

Highlights from the study, which was conducted from 2007 through March 2008 with 133 area firms representing 14,260 employees, include:

- 81 percent of employees are residents of Brown County;
- 89 percent rate the local business climate as “good” or “excellent”
- 44 percent rate the local business climate as better now than five years ago;
- 73 percent forecast that the local business climate will be better five years from now;
- 73 percent rate economic development in Brown County as “good” or “excellent”;
- 94 percent of area companies see employment increasing or staying the same;
- 41 percent plan to hire additional employees within the next year;
- 79 percent rate the quality of the local workforce as “good” or “excellent”;
- 92 percent rated housing in Brown County as “good” or “fair”

Compiling a read on the business community is a worthwhile endeavor, notes Barb Fleisner, vice president of Advance. “The future strength of the Brown County economy is highly dependent upon the success and growth of businesses that already exist in Brown County,” she said.

“While the summary of our visits have been positive, we will continue to reach out to our existing companies to assist them with their ongoing needs,” Fleisner added. “Summary data is important to evaluate current and future trends of our local employment base. Face-to-face time with CEOs and community leaders is also extremely valuable to make sure that local service providers are in touch with what is happening in the real business world.”

Advance works with existing businesses on an ongoing basis to determine the health and strength of the local economy, and to gauge and address business issues that could affect businesses’ ability to remain viable.

For more information, or to participate in Advance business retention efforts as a volunteer or interviewee, contact Fleisner, (920) 496-2113.



## FOCUS: DELTA-NORTHWEST DEAL



Travelers wait for their Northwest flight at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Detroit, which is one of the hub airports that serves Green Bay-area travelers out of Ashwaubenon-based Austin Straubel International Airport. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., will lead the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights today in examining the Delta-Northwest merger. **Kiichiro Sato/AP**

# Questions arise about airline merger

### Lawmakers to hear testimony from Delta, Northwest today

BY ELLYN FERGUSON  
 Press-Gazette Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Tony Yaron appreciates the letter from Northwest Airlines Corp. assuring officials at regional airports that a proposed merger with Delta Air Lines Inc. would not affect their passengers' access to hub cities like Minneapolis and Detroit.

"I read into that that's probably a short-term answer. ... In the long term, I've got to wonder how they will be able to sustain everything the two airlines bring together," said Yaron, manager of the Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee, which has 10 daily flights by Mesaba Airlines, which is operated by Northwest Airlines.

That's one of the questions congressional committees will ask Thursday as lawmakers scrutinize the Delta-Northwest pairing. Lawmakers also will want to know whether creation of the world's largest airline would mean less competition and a bad deal for consumers. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., will lead

### Pilots to resume negotiations

Pilots at Delta and Northwest airlines are looking to resume negotiations on merging their work forces as the two carriers combine.

The Air Line Pilots Association says negotiators from both airlines will aim to work out a joint union contract before the two companies combine. Once that is done, the chairmen of the two unions say they want to negotiate a seniority agreement.

The lack of a seniority agreement is what kept them from making a deal before Delta and Northwest announced plans to create the world's largest airline.

Northwest pilots had vowed to kill Delta Air Lines Inc.'s acquisition of Northwest Airlines Corp. because they were left out of contract talks at the end.

— The Associated Press

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights in examining the deal.

Northwest Airlines Chief Executive Doug Steenland and Delta CEO Richard Anderson will testify before a House Judiciary panel in the morning and before Kohl's panel in the afternoon. The two executives arrived here earlier in the week to brief reporters and meet with lawmakers to allay fears of layoffs, hub closings and fewer flights.

Steenland and Anderson argued that combin-

ing their operations would save \$1 billion a year and create a service network to 400 cities in 67 countries.

But a merger wouldn't trim all costs. Delta reported a \$6.39 billion loss that included a one-time charge of \$6.1 billion and \$1.42 billion in fuel costs that was 50 percent higher than last year. During his Washington visit, Delta's Anderson said airlines should raise their fares by 10 percent to 15 percent because of higher jet fuel prices.

Before the merger can move forward, the Justice Department's antitrust division must re-

### On the Net

■ Live Web cast of House Judiciary Antitrust Task Force, 9:30 a.m. today: [judiciary.house.gov](http://judiciary.house.gov)

■ Live Web cast of Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, 1 p.m. today: [judiciary.senate.gov](http://judiciary.senate.gov)

view it. The process could take months.

Tom Miller, director of Ashwaubenon-based Austin Straubel International Airport, said he has no recent airline merger he can use as a yardstick for determining how his facility might be affected by a Delta-Northwest combination. Delta and Northwest both serve the airport, Wisconsin's third largest.

"I think at this time anything that would be said (about the merger) is pure speculation. We have no indication from either that they intend to reduce or eliminate service to any of the hubs they have committed to," Miller said.

— Mallia Rulon/Gannett News Service

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